various quarters of the Financial year. Based on the recommendations of GIA Committee, grants are released immediately after settlement of accounts of grants sanctioned in the previous year and the Agreement Bond and Pre-stamped Receipts are submitted by the applicant organisations

[*English*]

**National Authority for Prevention and Control of Aids**

5425 AHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the conditions attached to the 100 million dollar soft loan

(b) whether there is any proposal for formation of a national authority for prevention and control of AIDS, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) to (c) Negotiations have been recently concluded with the World Bank for funding the National AIDS Control Project for a period of five years beginning April, 1992 involving an outlay of US $ 100 million

A Development Credit Agreement is now being processed for approval by the World Bank Board For credit effectiveness it is necessary for the Government of India and State/UT Governments to establish a dedicated structure and provide adequate staff and resources for implementing the activities which will be fund under the project

Activities for prevention and control of AIDS to be undertaken under the AIDS Control project are as under

- Programme Management
- Surveillance
- Blood Safety
- Information, Education & Communication
- Control of Sexually transmitted diseases
- Condom Promotion
- Case management

**. emales and Males**

5426 SHRISHRAVANKUMARPATEL

WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the statutory marriageable age of both females and males to be one of the effective ways to curb population growth, and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) and (b) The issue of raising the statutory marriageable age of both females and males is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Government of India and the State Governments/UTs Administration

[*Translation*]

**Blindness among Children**

5427 SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR
SHRI N DENNIS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to investigate the causes of excessive blindness among children

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) the number of such cases detected during the last three years State wise and Union Territory wise and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted a collaborative study on blindness in 1971 74 in 7 different centres representing 7 different regions of the country for children less than 7 of age Their findings are as under

| | |
|---|---|
| Persons covered | 81 100 |
| Blind persons | 61 |
| Prevalence rate per 1000 population | 0 75 |

(c) State/UT wise figures are not available

(d) As per expert advice severe Vitamin A deficiency being an important cause of blindness among small children a programme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency among children was started Under this programme intensive doses of Vitamin A (2 leans international units) in oil are given to children in age group 1 5 years at six month intervals In addition Health Education is also given to prevent blindness from other causes such as accidents injuries infection etc

**Additional Bogies to Visakhapatnam-Kirandul Train**

5428 SHRI MANKURAM SODHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a demand to increase the speed and provide additional bogies to Visakhapatnam Kirandul (Bailadila) passenger train and

(b) if so the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) Yes Sir

(b) Examined but not found operationally feasible and commercially justified

**Grant for Purchase of Hindi Books**

5429 DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA
SHRI B L SHARMA PREM

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Assam have requested for grant for the purchase of Hindi books for school libraries

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) There is no scheme under which grant could be sanctioned to State Govts for purchase of Hindi books for school libraries

(b) and (c) Does not arise